

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9483

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MASS, CB, US

SUBJ: POPULAR DAILY DECRIES INDOCHINA PEACE, AMERICAN STYLE

1. POPULAR VERNACULAR DAILY KOH SANTIPHEAP (ISLAND OF PEACE) HAS ATTACKED WHAT IT SEES AS "INDOCHINA PEACE, AMERICAN STYLE." A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL CARTOON SETS THE TONE FOR THE ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE. IT SHOWS A TOP-HATTED, MONEYBAG-LADEN UNCLE SAM DROPPING A PEACE SYMBOL-WAVING LON NOL OVER A CLIFF INTO THE JAWS OF A RED-STAR HELMETED CROCODILE.

2. AMERICAN LEGISLATORS (AND NOT THE US GOVERNMENT), THE ARTICLE NOTES, HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEIR OPPOSITION TO SUPPLEMENTARY AID TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC. THEY ARGUE THAT ENDING AID IS IN THE INTEREST OF RESTORING PEACE. THE END OF AMERICAN AID REALLY MEANS, HOWEVER, "THE END OF THE WAR WITH THE MILITARY DEFEAT OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND A POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC DEFEAT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

3. THE ARTICLE REFLECTS A GENUINE BEWILDERMENT AT THE MOTIVES OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO REFUSE TO HELP AN ALLY STILL WILLING TO FIGHT FOR ITS SURVIVAL. "HITHERTO,
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THE U.S. USED ITS AID TO IMPOSE ITS FIAT; NOW THE U.S.

IS WITHHOLDING AID AS A KIND OF IMMOLATION OF A FRIEND, ALLY AND PROTEGE". CUTTING AID AND REFUSING TO HONOR OBLIGATIONS IS NOT CONSONANT WITH AMERICA'S ROLE AS A MAJOR POWER, ACCORDING TO KOHISANTIPHEAP, BUT THE DAILY ALSO NOTES THAT ONLY THE TWO INDOCHINA COUNTRIES ARE LOSING AID. ISRAEL FOR EXAMPLE, IS GETTING EVEN MORE AID, DUE TO INTERNAL AMERICAN SOCIAL INFLUENCES.

4. "WE TRUSTED THE UNITED STATES TOO MUCH," THE PAPER

STATES, AND RECALLS THAT IN 1970 THE PRC PROPOSED TO WITHHOLD SUPPORT FROM SIHANOUK IF THE KHMER WOULD CONTINUE TO GRANT SANCTUARY TO THE NVA/VC. LON NOL REFUSED BECAUSE OF "WARM AMERICAN GUARANTEES CONCERNING AID TO FIGHT THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS." NOTING THAT NO COUNTRY CAN FIGHT A WAR WITHOUT FOOD AND AMMUNITION, THE DAILY WONDERS, "WHAT CAN WE DO NOW? WHAT NEW ATTITUDE, NEW POLICY SHOULD OUR LEADERS TAKE? OR DO THEY WANT US MERELY TO WAIT FOR DEATH?"

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